

City of Waukesha Fire Department Newsletter

1st Quarter 2019

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Message from the Fire Prevention Bureau



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

“Knowing safety
is not enough,
PRACTICE IT”

The City of Waukesha Fire Department has created this quarterly newsletter with the goal of providing information to the community related to how the department accomplishes its mission of “Safely Protecting the Lives and Property of our Community”. This newsletter will provide statistical information, fire prevention tips, interesting facts about the fire department, highlighting our history and information pertaining to the wide variety of services we provide. Most importantly, it provides us with the opportunity to recognize the highly-dedicated, professional men and women who have taken an oath to serve our community. (continued on page 3)

OPERATIONS BY THE NUMBERS – 2018 SUMMARY



ASSISTANT CHIEF JOSEPH HOFFMAN

2018 Activity		Total Incidents		Fire Dollar Loss		Civilian Fire Victims		
Fire Calls	888	2018	7,508	2018	\$2,923,191	2018	1 fatality	6 injured
EMS Calls	6,413	2017	7,280	2017	\$1,486,905	2017	0 fatality	1 injured
Special Services	31	2016	7,100	2016	\$855,700	2016	0 fatality	0 injured
All Other Calls	93	Apparatus on Duty Everyday				4- Cross Staffed Support Vehicles		
# of Pts. Transported	4,488	3- Engines	5- Ambulances			5- Reserve Apparatus		
Mutual Aid Given	83	2- Ladders	1- Shift Commander			6- Staff Vehicles		
2018 Apparatus Responses				Total Calls by Station		Total Calls by Shift		
Unit Description	Resp.	Unit Description	Resp.	Fire Station 1	2,405	Shift 1	2,465	
				Fire Station 2	1,277	Shift 2	2,564	
Engine 1	1,917	Ambulance 51	2,351	Fire Station 3	1,452	Shift 3	2,479	
Ladder 2	1,276	Ambulance 52	1,472	Fire Station 4	1,461			
Engine 3	1,133	Ambulance 53	1,557	Fire Station 5	909			
Engine 4	1,194	Ambulance 54	1,656	Fire Prevention Bureau Activities				
Ladder 5	872	Ambulance 55	1083	Commercial/Residential Inspections			5,738	
Battalion 10	644			Community Outreach-school programs (# ch)			4,806	
				FPB Time to Complete Fire Plans Review			11.42 days	

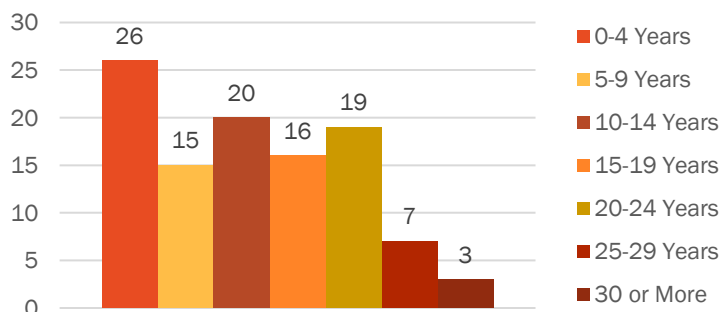
105.5 Total Employees

100 Sworn/ 5.5 Civilian

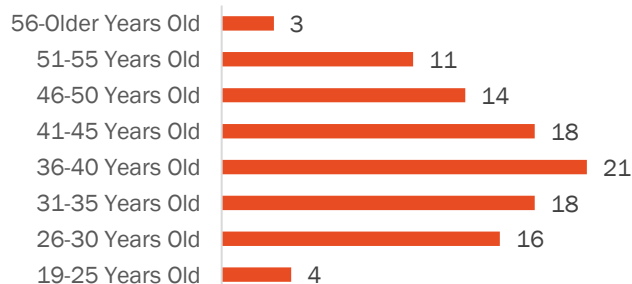
96 Personnel Assigned to 24 hr Shifts



Fire Department Experience in Years
(Data as of 1/1/19) *Dept Avg: 12.7 yrs; Median 11 yrs



Fire Department Personnel Age as of 1/1/19
**Dept Avg: 39.53 years old



2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The City of Waukesha Fire Department has a rich history dating back to July 21, 1852 when the “Reliance Hook and Ladder Company Number One” was established to protect the community. As the community has grown and changed, the fire department has also evolved while maintaining its mission to protect the lives and property of its citizens. Currently, the fire department maintains a full staffing compliment of 106 members who protect the community from five strategically located fire stations throughout the city. Each fire station is located to be able to achieve a five-minute drive time to any location in its response area within the city limits. The fire department is very thankful for the ongoing support provided by the community and their elected officials to provide us with the outstanding facilities and equipment to better accomplish our mission. We hope this newsletter serves as a means to better inform the community of how their valuable tax dollars are being utilized and the impact it has on maintaining service levels and the high quality of life the City of Waukesha offers.

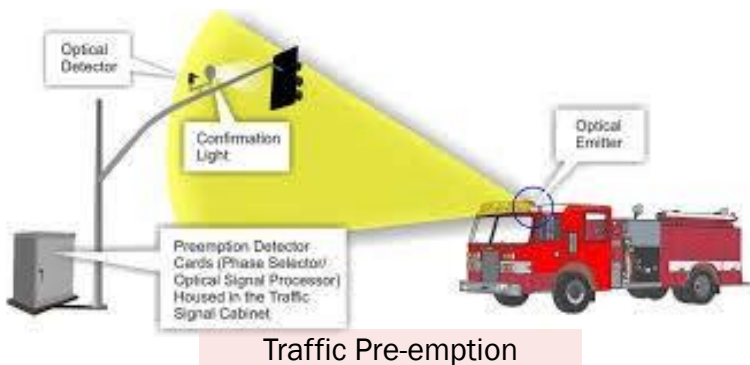
~ Chief Steve Howard



Engine 4



SCBA



Traffic Pre-emption

1. Maintained efficiency, effectiveness and an equitable delivery of emergency response services to the community, responding to 7,508 calls for service (3% increase from previous year).
2. Implemented new Emergency Medical Services performance management objectives, resulting in continuous performance improvement with our personnel achieving a Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) in 36.96% of the patients who were found to be pulseless and not breathing upon fire department arrival.
3. We continue our commitment and focus on engaging our community to be fire safe and make life safety focused decisions, by providing opportunities for the community to engage with the Survive Alive House, Fire Extinguisher, Hands-only CPR, and Stop the Bleed training.
4. Succession Planning through working with the Police and Fire Commission to complete Firefighter/ Paramedic Eligibility Process, the Retirement of two Lieutenant/ Paramedics, one Equipment Operator, and the corresponding promotions and hiring to maintain operational personnel workforce readiness.
5. Continued with our vehicle/ apparatus replacement schedule with the purchase of an engine for Fire Station 4. New Engine 4 boasts a Les Paul Guitar.
6. Completed purchase and began implementation and utilization of replacement Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The project came in under budget, and allows our personnel greater capabilities, such as improved communications, an ergonomically designed harness, and a Thermal Imaging Camera for all personnel.
7. In a cooperative effort with the Engineering Department, 22 intersections in the City received replacement traffic pre-emption equipment, ensuring our personnel can respond quicker and safer.

FIRE INSTRUCTION & TRAINING

Dennis Graff, Division Chief

The City of Waukesha Fire Department Is Looking For A Few "Bad" Buildings!

In order to be a premier fire and rescue organization, the City of Waukesha Fire Department participates in many training sessions throughout the community. Without a department training academy site, much of this training has to be conducted in donated properties within the City of Waukesha. "In the last year we have been extremely lucky," states Division Chief of Training Dennis Graff, "2018 was a great year for training opportunities. We were fortunate to have two residential houses offered to us to conduct destructive fire training, and we also conducted extensive training efforts in the Jendusa Shopping Center before it was demolished. This training included practicing techniques of ventilating a structure, rescuing civilians, and rescue of firefighters in distress."

The WFD needs abandoned/vacant buildings for these different types of training. If a property owner has a structure they are willing to allow the fire department to use, but don't want the building destroyed, terms can be set for **NON-DESTRUCTIVE** training.

If a property owner has a vacant structure that is scheduled for demolition, the fire department would be grateful to use it for **DESTRUCTIVE** training.

The best structures for firefighter training are ones that are not good for the owners - having low appeal for potential tenants. Buildings that are most sought after are: **(ABANDONED/VACANT)**

- Single family residences - Multi-family residences - One or two-story apartment buildings - Warehouses - Strip shopping centers - Large "Big Box" facilities (i.e. grocery stores, hardware stores, commercial-type buildings, etc.)

Some of the criteria for destructive training within properties include having a completed asbestos survey and proof of NO insurance. More information is available through our Training Division.

Anyone wishing to help the Fire Department with the use of their structure should call, Division Chief of Training Dennis Graff at (262) 524-3650.

Fire
Department
Archives



The steamer is "General Hancock", a LaFrance third size rotary engine ordered on October 7, 1882.

The department's most famous paired team of horses "Jim" and "Casey" were purchased on August 4, 1896 and pulled the hose wagon until May 1, 1907. They were the first two horses that were owned by the department; before their arrival, residents would bring their horses to the station when the fire bell was rung for the alarm of a fire. An interesting tale about "Jim" and "Casey", is that upon the retirement as fire horses they were sold to the local funeral home and became the team that would aid in carrying the casket of the deceased from the funeral home to the cemetery. One day, the regular driver had called in sick, and the mortuary contacted John O'Brien (firefighter) to fill in. As the story has been retold, John O'Brien got into the driver's seat of the casket wagon and gave the horses his usual "giddy up" whistle prompt, and the horses took off as if they were headed to a fire! Thankful for the deceased, John was able to quickly calm them down to their usual funeral procession trot.



BRIAN CHARLESWORTH, FIRE MARSHAL



The City of Waukesha Fire Prevention Bureau is getting ready to conduct its spring fire safety programs in the public and private elementary schools. We will be taking our mobile fire safety house around to all the schools throughout the month of May. We will be teaching children about home fire safety and accident prevention. The fire safety house is taught at the first and fourth grade level throughout all the elementary schools. The students visit three rooms in the fire safety house. There is a kitchen, living room and a bedroom. Fire department personnel talk about general fire safety in each of these rooms. We also teach the participants about the importance of a fire safety evacuation plan in the bedroom. We encourage the children to speak with their parents about developing a home fire safety evacuation plan in the event of an emergency in their home.



The City of Waukesha Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind everyone that outdoor burning is allowed in the City of Waukesha if all the appropriate regulations are followed. We are approaching the time of year when recreational fires become more prevalent. We would like to remind everyone that outdoor burning can only be conducted between the hours of 3 PM and 12 AM. Your outdoor fire must also be at least 25 feet from any combustible building shed or other structure. City residents should also be aware that yard waste cannot be burned in your outdoor fire pit or fireplace. Any outdoor yard waste can be disposed of at the city's drop off center located on Sentry Drive.

City of Waukesha Fire Department
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